*List of HIV reference centres*

1. National Institute of Communicable Disease, Delhi.
2. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
3. Indian Institute of Immunohematology, Bombay.
4. National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta.
5. School of Tropical Medicines, Calcutta.
6. Madras Medical College, Madras.
7. National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune.
8. Regional Medical College, Imphal.
9. Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The reference centres should be entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out confirmatory test. They should also be made responsible for diagnosis, quality control of HIV kits, guidelines for HIV testing, training in HIV testing and any other activity which may be necessary for standardization of HIV testing.

**Vacant Post of Scheduled Tribes**

3412. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts belonging to scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments, category-wise;

(b) whether persons of other castes are working on these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Ayurveda Scam In U.P.**

3413. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought the Union Government's approval for prosecuting some officials alleged involved in multi-crores Ayurveda scam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in taking decision by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

**Cataract**

3414. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether introduction of the latest Photo Emulsification technique for operation of Cataract without any stitching would save the people from becoming blind;

(b) if so, the details of the said technique; and

(c) the steps being taken to promote and popularise said technique?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Phaco-emulsification is a more sophisticated technique for doing cataract surgery in comparision to the conventional one. The recurring costs for maintaining the equipment is high and only limited number of surgeons can use this technique as it requires a relatively longer learning curve. The technique is not used at present for large volumes of surgery and at present it's use should be limited to those who demand early visual rehabilitation and can afford the cost.

*[English]*

**Demand of Medicinal Plants**

3415. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great international demand of medicinal plants from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The export data of plants and parts of plants used in pharmacy as obtained from the published sources of Director General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta reflects a growing demand for medicinal plants from India.

The export data is as follows :-

| Year | Value of Exports |
|---|---|
| 1992-93 | Rs. 109.51 crores |
| 1993-94 | Rs. 101.67 crores |
| 1994-95 | Rs. 146.87 crores |
| 1995-96 | Rs. 206.88 crores |